GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:539
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2000
SCS/STS/OBCS AMBASSADORS
DUKHA BHAGAT

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

a] The number of countries where Indian High Commissioners and Ambassadors have been posted;b] The number out of them belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes; andc] The norms adopted for selecting Ambassadors and High Commissioners ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA]

a] The number of countries where Ambassadors/High Commissioners have been appointed by the Government of India is 114.

b] The number of Ambassadors/ High Commissionersbelonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward classes is as follows:

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SC: 10
ST: 7
OBC: Since at the time of appointment of the present Ambassadors/High Commissioners,
 there was no classification of OBC, the total strength in this category is not
 reflected in the records.
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c] The appointments of Ambassadors /High Commissioners to foreign countries are decided on the basis of a number of criteria which include, inter alia , their seniority, career, relevant experience and an overall suitability for the task and the posts.